

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
August 10, 2011
Richmond Hill Quality Inn
10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Walter Gibson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Invocation was given by Mayor Jim Thomas.

Mayor Jim Thomas invited everyone to the grand opening of the new Hinesville City Hall on August 20th at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Coty, Reggie Loper, Herb Jones, David Boland, John McIver, Chris Blaine, Jimmy Burnsed, William Miller, Linda Barker, Tom Ratcliffe, Jonathan Williams, Robert Stokes, David Rainer, Shaw McVeigh, Craig Root, Tom Sublett, Dr. Ronald Shiffler, Joe Brannen, Walter Gibson, Jim Thomas, Harold Fowler, Pete Liakakis, Sean Register, Herb Hill, Margaret Evans, Ken Lee, Bill Deloughy, and Joe Malbasa.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allen Brown, Kelly Spratt, Jason Coley, Chap Bennett, Will Boyd, Otis Johnson, Myrtice Warren, and Robert Walker.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Glisson, Screven County.

GUESTS: David Hainley, Glynn County; Wally Orrel, McIntosh County; Lewis Spears, DHS/OFSS/TSS; Frank Parker, Statesboro; Michael Phillips, Rincon; Danielle Hips, The Coastal Courier; Steve Crowell, City of St. Marys; Patti Sistrunk, Safe Routes to School; Dina McKain, Fort Stewart; Sonny Timmerman, LCPC; Kathryn Murph, Office of Senator Saxby Chambliss; and Keith Ziobron CHA Consulting.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Barbara Hurst, Transportation Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Don Masisak, Economic Development Director; Jill Jackson-Ledford, Aging Services Director, and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

PRESENTATIONS:

Outgoing Chairman: Chairman Walter Gibson presented a gavel plaque and GSU pin and Executive Director Burns presented a Lighthouse plaque to outgoing Chairman Dan Coty for his outstanding service to Coastal Georgia and the Council.

Perfect Attendance: Chairman Walter Gibson presented perfect attendance pins to Dan Coty and Reggie Loper. Allen Brown was not in attendance to receive his pin. CRC staff held a drawing between the three perfect attendees for a CRC football and the winner was Dan Coty. The football was passed around for everyone to sign and then presented to Mr. Coty.

Honorable Mention: The following Council Members only missed one meeting: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Mayor Harold Fowler, Commissioner Walter Gibson, Chris Blaine, and Tom Ratcliffe.

Safe Routes to School: Ms. Patti Sistrunk, Regional Coordinator for Safe Routes to School (SRTS), GDOT, presented a Certificate for "Friend of the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center" to Chairman Walter Gibson. The CRC is a stakeholder partner with SRTS and sponsored the first-ever school guard crossing training in the coastal region.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Gibson requested approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2011 meeting.

Motion: Chairman Pete Liakakis
Second: Mayor Margaret Evans
Vote: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Non-Public and Ex-Officio Members: : *(See Attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes)* The following were approved as non-public members: Sean Register, Herb Jones, David Boland, Shaw McVeigh, Allen Brown, Robert Stokes, William Miller, Dr. Ronald Shiffler, Craig Root, Chris Blaine, Jason Coley, and Herb Hill. Chatham County still has two non-public vacancies. The following Council members were approved as ex-officio members: Councilman Clarence Knight, Dorothy Glisson, Dr. Ben Thompson, Dr. Priscilla Thomas, and Ron Elliott.

Motion: Mayor Bill DeLoughy
Second: Linda Barker
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Budget and Finance Committee: *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* The following were approved as members of the Budget & Finance Committee: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed (Committee Chairman), Commissioner Walter Gibson, Mayor Bill DeLoughy, Chairman Pete Liakakis, Mayor Otis Johnson, Herb Jones, Dan Coty, Mayor Jim Thomas, Chairman Bobby Walker, Jason Coley, Mayor Margaret Evans, and Dorothy Glisson.

Motion: Mayor Bill DeLoughy
Second: Linda Barker
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Reappointment of Economic Development Committee: *(See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* The following were approved as members of the Economic Development Committee: Commissioner Walter Gibson, Linda Barker, Sean Register, Dr. Ron Shiffler, Craig Root, Chris Blaine, Chap Bennett, Dan Coty, Tom Ratcliffe, Allen Brown, Robert Stokes, Chairman Bobby Walker, Jason Coley, Clarence Knight and Dorothy Glisson. It was noted that Long County needed to be changed to Liberty County for Robert Stokes.

Motion: Mayor Margaret Evans
Second: Mayor Bill DeLoughy
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Ethics Committee: *(See Attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* The following were approved as members of the Ethics Committee: Craig Root, Mayor Harold Fowler, and Chairman John McIver.

Motion: Mayor Bill DeLoughy
Second: Linda Barker
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Resolution in Support of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Work Program for FY 12: *(See Attachment 5, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Lupita McClenning, Planning and Government Services Director, reported that staff had updated their work program to reflect the recommendations of the 2010 Regional Plan, as well as applicable objectives and implementation strategies

from the prior Regional Work Program. A motion was made to approve the Resolution and Work Program as presented.

Motion: Herb Jones
Second: Mayor Bill DeLoughy
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Resolution of Respect for Aging Services Advisory Council Member Daisy Mills: *(See Attachment 6, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Jill Jackson-Ledford, Aging Services Director advised that Ms. Daisy Mills had actively served on the Advisory Council for many years and had recently passed away and that she would like to present the Resolution to her daughter Delores Dees at their next Aging Services Advisory Council Meeting. A motion was made to pass the Resolution.

Motion: Herb Jones
Second: Mayor Bill DeLoughy
Vote: Unanimous

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on EB-5 Program – Mr. Don Masisak, Economic Development Director, reported that the application has been in the hands of USCIS for 70 days and it could be another 30 days before receiving a response. Winding Road Update – drawings complete; need debt financing; meeting with JIA on regular basis; working to have project eligible for HB234 rebate. The strategy for the TEA designation is to work with another developer from Atlanta who is proposing a hotel on Jekyll to get a waiver because of density and development limitations. A PowerPoint presentation was made to the Richmond Hill Rotary and Mr. Masisak is available to make the presentation to any group.

DRI Reports – *(See Attachments 7 and 8, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Executive Director Burns referred members to the handouts on DRIs #2192 in Riceboro, and #2201 in Richmond Hill. The CRC has made recommendations and believe the rezoning amendments will be in the best interest of the region and State.

Executive Director Burns reported that CRC staff had just issued their first negative finding on a DRI regarding a solid waste facility/landfill in Bryan County. The developer has requested a 30-day extension to address the CRC's findings, which has been granted. The developer may wish to discuss this before the Council at our next meeting, and then it will be up to the Council to decide if they feel that staff made the right decision.

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 9, 10, 11, and 12 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 13, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- *(See Attachment 14, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Joint Land Use Study Implementation Summit on Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield on September 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Richmond Hill City Center.
- National magazine *State Tech* features article on the CRC's IT department, led by Brandon Westberry, who has done an excellent job bringing the CRC into the 21st century.

- Received NADO 2011 Innovative Award for the Coastal Communities For All Ages. Lupita McClenning, CRC Planning Director, will be giving a presentation at their annual conference.
- The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) received a NADO 2011 Innovative Award for the ArcGIS Enterprise License Agreement (ELA). This allowed all of the regional commissions in Georgia to receive a cheaper unified price for GIS software. We are the only state in the country to do this.
- Public hearings on Regional Plan Amendments will be on August 23rd in Brunswick from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and on August 25th in Midway from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm.
- Appreciation to Chairman Jimmy Burnsed and the Round Table Executive Committee, for their excellent job in getting the project list approved. Special thanks to Ron Sadowski, CRC Transportation Planner, for his work in adjusting the numbers and keeping them straight. The CRC will work on getting the information out; need a strong region-wide push from business and chambers of commerce. Jerry Keen will be speaking to a couple of groups.
- Still talking with Kings Bay – we have a good potential to do a JLUS project for them.
- Leadership Southeast GA completed first year; would like to see one council member participate next year. There will be five meetings usually 1 ½ to 2 days, they will start in Camden County and end in Chatham County.
- Aging Services Advisory Council will meet at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m. on August 16th.
- Two Transportation Investment Act (TIA) public hearings will be held on August 24th: (1) Bloomingdale City Hall, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and (2) Brunswick at the CRC Office 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- DNR's CoastFest will be held on October 1st at their headquarters in Brunswick; the CRC will have a booth.
- Still waiting on decision on the Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) application.
- Governor's office has ordered state agencies to cut budgets 2% this year, due to the cuts they expect from Washington.
- The Vanpool program is being discontinued as it has not been a successful effort. Staff will reassess and see if there is a way we can come back stronger. There will not be any loss of service.
- Audit starts this month.
- Transit trips for FY11 under just under 200,000. Trips have been broke out by county and will be disseminated to everyone soon.

Mr. Shaw McVeigh questioned the status on the buses and the conversion to CNG. Burns stated staff had been around the world on this project. CNG is a good project; however, the problem is getting fueling stations, which cost approximately \$1 million; currently looking at the possibility of using propane. Mr. Dan Coty explained that propane is readily available; it's just the cost of converting the vehicles. They believe they have finally gotten the warranty issues resolved with DOT and are trying to identify a couple of vehicles they could use as a pilot project for propane and determine the costs and savings involved.

Mr. McVeigh questioned if the trip counts included occupancy on the buses. Burns stated that once we get the dispatching system up and running and dispatchers on staff we will have improved efficiency and will be able to know if we have one person on a bus or a bus full of people. Mr. Craig Root questioned if GPS had been installed on the buses. Burns stated this will be done at the same time, along with radios for the drivers. Ms. Barbara Hurst, Transportation Director, stated they are in the planning process of getting software, hardware, real-time track, and getting away from the cash fare box by utilizing smart cards, debit and credit cards. The next thing will be to get video cameras so they can monitor activities on the bus.

Update on Regional Transportation Roundtable Committee: Committee Chair Jimmy Burnsed congratulated the Executive Committee for their work and reported they were unanimous in approving the projects on the constrained list. DOT kicked in approximately \$400 million, which helped get more projects on the list. Burnsed added that if the sales tax passes a lot of money can be leveraged for our counties. The roundtable members have been invited to all of the executive committee meetings and most have attended, so he doesn't think there will be any problem getting their approval of the list as well. The next meeting of the Regional Roundtable will be on September 7th after the CRC Council meeting.

Legislative Update – Ms. Kathryn Murph-Downs, Representative for Senator Saxby Chambliss, reported that Senator Chambliss had voted against the compromise bill because he felt it didn't address the issues. A group of 12 will be appointed to see if they can reach an agreement. A vote is anticipated by Christmas; however, if no agreements are made, cuts will automatically start being made. Senators Chambliss and Isakson will be conducting town meetings; the closest to our area are in Jesup at Altamaha Tech on August 16th from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., and at the Waycross Middle School on August 17th from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Walter Gibson stated that he would like to receive Council approval to move our September meeting to the 7th in order to accommodate Dr. Brooks Keel, GSU President, who would like to come and make a presentation to our Council. A motion was made to move the September meeting to the 7th.

Motion: Chairman Pete Liakakis

Second: Herb Jones

Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**